

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,898,461 (the “ ‘461 patent”). According to the Examiner, the ‘461 patent:

teaches a method of manufacturing a multifocal lens by depositing on at least a portion of a surface of a lens substrate at least one layer of a surface forming amount of a refractive index material were the material is deposited under conditions suitable so that the material forms on the lens substrate surface a near vision zone, an intermediate vision zone or a combination ...

In the ‘461 patent is disclosed the use of ion implantation to produce a “progressive zonal [corneal onlay, intra-ocular, and contact] lens having optical characteristics of Figures 6A and 6B.” Figures 6A and 6B depict a surface having a plurality of undulating curves having “peaks 54 and valleys 56.” Further is disclosed that:

a first ray ... from an object at an intermediate distance, passes through a valley 56 ... A second ray ... from an object at a far position (lower power correction), passes through a portion ... of the undulating curve formed as that curve progresses toward the adjacent peak 54 ... A third ray ... from an object at an intermediate [sic] distance passes through the peak 54 .. A fourth ray ... from an object at a near position (higher power correction), passes through a portion ... of the undulating curve formed as that curve progresses toward the next valley 56 ... Column 5, lines 21-32.

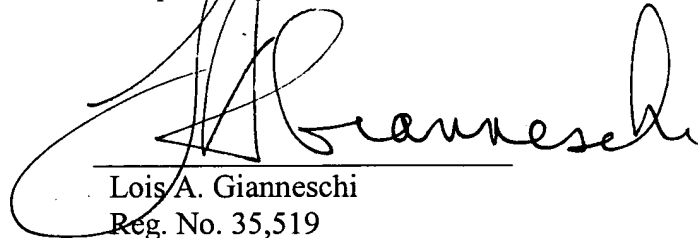
Thus, the lens of the ‘461 patent has a surface of undulating curves of intermediate to distance to intermediate to near to intermediate power configuration.

In contrast, Applicants’ invention is directed to progressive spectacle lenses and methods for their production. The invention provides for the manufacture of the lenses by deposition of an inorganic high refractive index material onto at least a portion of a substrate to produce a progressive surface. As defined in Applicants’ specification, a progressive surface is “a continuous, aspheric surface having far and near vision zones

and an intermediate vision zone of increasing or decreasing dioptric power connecting the far and near vision zones.” Thus, the ‘461 pant does not teach or disclose manufacture of progressive surfaces and, in fact, teaches away from the manufacture of progressive surfaces. Therefore, Applicants’ claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the ‘461 patent and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois A. Gianneschi", written over a horizontal line.

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